



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

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New Poll Shows Americans Solidly Behind Bush Testing Plan

A new poll of 800 registered voters by the Winston Group, a widely respected GOP national polling firm, shows that Americans strongly support President Bush's plan to ask states to design and implement annual math and reading tests for students in grades three through eight.

According to the poll, 72 percent of the respondents supported the Bush testing plan and just 23 percent opposed it. Moreover, the Bush proposal is widely supported across the political ideological spectrum. It is supported by liberals by a 66-29 percent margin and by moderates by a 70-25 percent margin. **Of note, conservatives supported the testing plan by a large margin of 80-16 percent.**

Americans are giving President Bush high marks in other recent polls as well. A recent *Washington Post*-ABC News poll found that 60 percent of Americans approve of the way the President is handling the education issue. Similarly, a recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll found that fully 68 percent of Americans believe that President Bush will be able to improve our nation's education system.

Education is the top priority for the American people. And President Bush and Republicans in Congress have responded with a bold, much-needed education plan -- a plan that Americans unmistakably support.

Message of the Day

Americans support President Bush's innovative approach to improving the quality of our education system.

- ❑ *States and local schools using federal education dollars must be held accountable for results.*
- ❑ *Parents should have the right to know whether their children are truly learning.*
- ❑ *The only way for parents to know for certain whether their children are learning is to measure, and measure regularly.*
- ❑ *The American people support the Republican plan to test students and empower parents.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- A national poll conducted in March by Democrats found that Americans prefer Republicans over Democrats on the education by seven percentage points (45-38 percent).
- A recent Harris Poll found that 67 percent of Americans favor President Bush's education plan.
- A recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll found that 60 percent of Americans say the public-school system is doing a poor or "only fair" job.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The more you test, the better the students do. There has to be constant assessment in place that demonstrates real mastery of what you are teaching." **David Levin, principal of the KIPP Academy charter school in New York City, the highest performing middle school in the Bronx**